

**An Inventory of Methamphetamine Data in Indiana:
Preliminary Results from a Canvass of State Agencies**

1/11/06

Executive Summary

Methamphetamine (meth) use, production, and treatment in Indiana represents a major concern for law enforcement, legislators, public safety personnel, social service agencies, and the public in general. An integral component of the Meth-Free Indiana Coalition and the Governor's Drug-Free Indiana Commission initiative is the creation of a central data repository, or data clearinghouse, for Indiana's meth-related information. Minimal statewide information is readily available on meth-related prevention, enforcement/containment, and treatment. To effectively develop comprehensive approaches that can be used to address Indiana's meth crisis, complete, accurate, and timely data are needed. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), in partnership with the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment (Center) at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis is developing the data repository which will house all relevant meth-related information and which will be available to stakeholders and planners involved in law enforcement, treatment, social services, as well as the general public.

The initial step in creating the meth data repository involves identification of meth-specific data and information currently being collected. ICJI and the Center are in the process of conducting a canvass of state agencies to identify these data and information. Roughly 55 state agencies, including all members of the Governor's Meth-Free Coalition, that are likely to have some involvement with meth-related issues were identified by ICJI. These stakeholders represent a diverse group of agencies, including law enforcement, social services, and those involved in treatment and prevention.

ICJI and the Center developed a data collection protocol that provides a starting point for standardized identification and understanding of data currently available on meth-related issues and in the long term will help assess the need for new types of data. This process involves the collection of basic information and covers the following topics: existence of meth-specific data, nature of data being collected, and availability of data to the repository project. While the primary objective of the canvass is to determine the current collection of empirical data, ICJI and the Center

are also interested in efforts to gather and produce meth information in general, as well as agencies' plans to collect meth-oriented data in the future.

This summary report presents interim results of the project's canvass of agencies. It also incorporates results of a preliminary survey of a handful of state agencies conducted by ICJI earlier in the fall. Roughly one-third of all identified agencies have not been reached directly and continued follow up is required. Additional effort is also needed to ascertain attributes of available data and acquire datasets for further review and inclusion in the repository.

Stakeholders contacted to-date are cooperative with the canvassing process, willing to share meth-related data and information, and refer the project team to additional resources. Of the 38 agencies surveyed thus far, 19 report some form of meth-related activity. Twelve of these are involved in collecting meth-specific empirical data, including data on meth-related offenses, use, treatment, and costs. In addition, a number of these entities are also engaged in meth-oriented education and training programs. While some agencies are involved in meth-related programs and data collection activities, many do not have formal programs or resources dedicated to meth. Ten of these agencies are, however, engaged in some form of meth-related education, training, and advocacy. In terms of obstacles to acquiring meth-specific data, a number of respondents cite programs which focus on broader classes of drugs as well as data system structures that don't specify meth. Furthermore, drug and law enforcement agencies indicate that existing statutes pertaining to drug possession and dealing do not distinguish meth offenses (IC 35-48-4-1).

ICJI and the Center have collected cursory information on specific aspects of data stakeholders indicate their agencies can make available to the project; including collection mechanisms, spatial coverage, frequency of collection, and units of analysis. Most agencies that gather meth-related data indicate that the information is considered public and thus available to the project. Limitations on data sharing cited by some agencies include restrictions regarding intelligence information and in some cases, legal constraints. Most agencies that collect meth-specific data and/or are engaged in meth-oriented programming indicate they will continue current activities. A number of agencies, however, report plans to expand and/or alter programs and collection procedures to specifically and more accurately address the nature and scope of the meth issue, as well as the effectiveness of efforts directed at meth in Indiana.

The majority of stakeholders contacted convey a keen interest in the meth issue and repository, further demonstrating the need for comprehensive, accurate, timely, and readily

available information. Some agencies also expressed the desire for specific content to be included in the repository that will assist them in their efforts and positively impact their constituents.

This canvass of state agencies lays the groundwork for definitive identification and understanding of meth-specific data and information to be included in the repository. The project will continue to contact those agencies not yet surveyed as well as those that report data collection, in order to obtain actual data and/or more detailed information about data sources to be included in the repository. As part of overall efforts to inform repository content and design, the project team will also follow up on recommendations regarding additional meth-related data and resources.

Introduction

Methamphetamine (meth) use, production, and treatment in Indiana represents a major concern for law enforcement, legislators, public safety personnel, social service agencies, and the public in general. Local law enforcement agencies and the Indiana State Police (ISP) are at the forefront in the combat against the meth problem. According to ISP's 2005 Methamphetamine Annual Report, ISP responded to 1,549 clandestine meth labs in 2004. Meth-related arrests also rose 164% between 2001 and 2004.¹ Meth threatens the health and well-being of Indiana's families and communities. From 2002 to 2004, 620 cases of children affected by meth were reported to ISP.² In such situations, many children have been placed in foster and kinship care. The Office of National Drug Control Policy ranked Indiana 4th in the nation for children affected by meth.³ The dangers (including fires and explosions), complexity, and cost of cleaning up meth labs are taxing law enforcement and economic resources. While there are indications that meth lab seizures and related arrests have recently decreased,⁴ meth continues to pose a concern for Indiana communities. The drop in numbers has been attributed to meth intervention and prevention strategies, increased attention to the issue, and legislation restricting the sale of precursors used in meth production (SEA 444 also known as the "Meth Protection Act"). While these figures are encouraging, meth remains an issue of critical importance which demands attention. The Meth-Free Indiana Coalition was formed in early 2005 to address the state's meth problem.

¹ Indiana State Police, "Methamphetamine Abuse Task Force Report and Recommendations", 2004.

² Indiana Prevention Resource Center, "Methamphetamine", 2005.

³ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Facts: Methamphetamine, 2005.

⁴ According to a report on methamphetamine activity from ISP, lab seizures fell 62 percent between March and September of 2005 and arrests dropped 86 percent for the same period. (Lawrence, E.L. "Indiana State Police Methamphetamine Report", 2005.) These data reflect ISP figures and may not reflect local law enforcement activity

A primary component of the Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana initiative is creation of a central data repository, or data clearinghouse, dedicated to Indiana's meth-related information. Minimal statewide information is collected or readily available on meth-related prevention, education, enforcement/containment, and treatment. When information is collected, it is often available only to the individuals that collected the information. To effectively develop comprehensive approaches that can be used to address Indiana's meth crisis, complete, accurate, and timely data are needed. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), in partnership with the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment (Center) at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis is developing the data repository, which will house all relevant meth-related information and be available to stakeholders and planners involved in law enforcement, treatment, social services, as well as the general public.

The initial step in creating the meth data repository involves identification of meth-specific data and information currently being collected. ICJI and the Center are in the process of conducting a canvass of state agencies to identify and understand these data and information. The primary objective of the survey is to assess the existence, scope and scale of meth-specific data and/or information being collected as well as ascertain the nature and availability of meth-related data to the meth repository. These stakeholders represent a diverse group of agencies, including law enforcement, social service providers, and those involved in treatment and prevention.

This interim report presents preliminary results of efforts to survey agencies and identify meth-related data currently being collected, as well as understand the nature and availability of such data to the Meth-Free Data Repository. Also included are results of an earlier, preliminary survey of several state agencies, conducted by ICJI in the fall 2005, aimed at identifying available meth-related data, information, and programming. These research activities will lay the foundation for data elements to be included in the repository's design.

Approach to Identifying Currently Available Meth-Related Data

In order to review programs currently underway and assess data availability, 55 state agencies, including all members of the Governor's Meth-Free Coalition, that are likely to have some involvement with meth-related issues were identified by ICJI for the initial round of canvassing.

These stakeholders represent a diverse group of agencies, including law enforcement, social service providers, and those involved in treatment and prevention.

ICJI and the Center developed the data collection protocol to provide a starting point for identifying and understanding data currently available on meth-related issues and to gauge the need for new types of data. ICJI and Center callers were asked to follow a standard script and documentation process when contacting stakeholder agencies. The script addresses issues pertaining to meth-specific data collection, including the following:

- whether the agency collects meth-specific data and/or information;
- a description and/or purpose of the data collected;
- the agency's ability to share data with the project and necessary steps to obtain the data;
- in the event the agency does not collect data, whether the agency intends to collect meth-related data in the future; and
- recommended sources for meth-related data/information

If agencies report meth-specific data collection, callers are asked to obtain the following information: name(s) of identified data sources containing meth-specific information, data collection mechanisms, frequency of data collection, time period dataset(s) covers, spatial coverage, units of analysis, and whether data collection includes information on costs.

Preliminary Results of Meth Stakeholder Canvass

During November 2005, ICJI and Center research staff began contacting stakeholder agencies identified by ICJI. While direct contact has not been achieved with all agencies, the research team has successfully spoken with 38 of the 55 stakeholders identified. The process of contacting individual stakeholders is ongoing as is further follow up in some instances to obtain more detailed accounts regarding data and/or to clarify information received.

Agencies Report Collecting Meth-Specific Data

Results of the preliminary survey of agencies indicate that 19 of the 38 contacted thus far are involved in some form of meth-related activity directed at an aspect of the meth crisis. (See Appendix A) The majority of these agencies report collecting meth-specific data, including data on meth-related offenses, use, treatment, and costs. In addition, a number of these entities also are

engaged in meth-oriented education and training programs as well as advocacy and policy development.

Law enforcement-related data represents a large portion of meth-specific data currently being collected from the following agencies the project has been able to contact: Indiana State Police (ISP), Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. ISP is the primary reporting agency for clandestine meth lab seizures, processing approximately 85 percent of all seizures of drug labs in the state and lab-related arrests. ISP also is in the process of designing a data collection system for retailer logs that will track purchases of medication containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. The Indiana Field Office of the DEA reports collecting data on drug-related cases by drug type, including meth. The IDOC collects data on offenders in need of meth-related treatment, meth-related offenses, is designing a tracking system to collect outcome data on individuals in IDOC treatment facilities, and also is developing performance measures to gauge treatment effectiveness. In addition to the traditional law enforcement agencies, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regularly encounters clandestine meth labs (e.g., in state parks) and makes arrests. DNR recently updated a tracking system to include drug specific arrests with specific coding for meth or precursor arrests. Prior to this update the agency tracked non-specific drug arrests. DNR also provides training and education to state park property personnel about meth labs, how to report them, and enforces meth-related laws on state property.

A number of these agencies are also focused on providing treatment, training, and education aimed at combating the meth problem. Efforts to tackle meth have focused, in large part, on training of frontline staff to recognize, and repair the damage caused by meth. The State Fire Marshall, ISP, and DNR are conducting training programs on the identification and processing of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. The IDOC and various divisions within the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) are implementing treatment programs and training staff to work with and address the special needs of meth-involved clients. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) indicates that the agency collects data on meth use and abuse, as well as treatment data. DMHA collects these data from treatment providers on patients receiving services through the Hoosier Assurance Plan (HAP). DMHA has collected data on meth users receiving HAP since 2001. DMHA also provides meth treatment training to mental health providers and engages in broader awareness and education activities. The State Department of Toxicology

maintains data on samples tested for meth and results of those tests, including screen tests for a broad class of amphetamines.

Additional examples of agencies maintaining meth-specific data include the Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana through Community Consultants who collect a broad range of data on meth-related meetings, programs, and data from each county; the Growers Cooperative which conducted a survey of farm retailers regarding costs incurred over the past 5 years as a result of increased insurance, cleanup and additional security related to meth; and the Chemist and Seed Commission collects information regarding anhydrous ammonia tanks and reports of ammonia theft.

Agencies Provide Meth-Related Programs

While many do not formally collect meth-specific data, a number of agencies contacted provide programming (primarily training and education activities) and also collaborate with others in addressing meth-related issues. State agencies reporting meth-related program activity include the following:

- Meth-Free Indiana Coalition
- Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana
- ICJI
- The Agribusiness Council of Indiana engages in educational activities aimed at raising awareness.
- The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) sponsors forums for meth education to school personnel. IDOE has also initiated development of materials to assist personnel in recognizing meth use, which will be distributed to school corporations' Drug-Free Schools coordinators.
- The Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) provides meth-related training and education to law enforcement officers across the state. The training covers the identification of meth and its precursors, effects of meth use, and overview of clandestine labs.
- The Indiana Judicial Center is concerned with program development and case management of meth-addicted individuals. Judges are charged with developing meth case management programs and decisions regarding individual clients are developed on a case-by-case basis.
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is involved in establishing guidelines and rules for cleanup of meth labs and forming a roster of contractors certified for cleanup.
- The State Fire Marshall offers training and education about clandestine meth labs to first responders.

- Indiana Association of Counties (IAC) works with counties to pass ordinances limiting availability of meth-producing chemicals and ingredients.
- The Indiana Grocers & Convenience Store Association provides retailers with instructions on implementing and remaining compliant with the Meth Watch program.
- The Indiana Retail Council ensures that retailers understand legal requirements and remain compliant.

Majority of Agencies Willing and Able to Share Meth Data with Repository

Many agencies report that the data they collect are considered public information and therefore readily available to the project. However, in some instances, there are restrictions on data sharing which are related to intelligence information and/or legal limitations. Others are unsure whether information, in some cases primarily anecdotal, would be considered relevant to the project. Further follow up is required by ICJI and Center researchers with a number of stakeholders, to determine the scope and scale of available data and to identify specific attributes of available datasets.

Some Agencies Convey Plans to Collect Meth-Related Data

Most agencies that report collecting data/information indicate they will continue current activities. A few report they intend to begin or expand meth-related activities and specifically data collection. For instance, IDEM is involved in establishing guidelines and rules for cleanup of meth labs and forming a roster of contractors certified for cleanup. If IDEM begins to track meth labs at a later date, they will depend on other data providers such as ISP. The Indiana Sheriff's Association is considering the addition of questions to its annual survey about meth, to include, but not limited to, number of labs seized, number of arrests, number of children found in the homes, and the number of times that a SWAT team was called for entry into a suspected lab. As previously mentioned, IDOC is developing a tracking system to collect data on individuals in its treatment facilities.

Reported Challenges to Obtaining Meth-Specific Data

Several agencies report data collection on drug-related issues, but not specifically meth. The Indiana Court of Appeals maintains data on cases filed for civil and criminal purposes, but reports that the information is not detailed enough to identify meth. The Department of Education records students' suspensions and expulsions on drug-related matters, however, these are not drug-specific. IDOE's approach is through drug prevention and education from a nonspecific drug

perspective. IDOC reports that meth offenses are being classified as cocaine-related crimes. Possession or dealing of cocaine and methamphetamine are charged under the same Indiana Code (IC 35-48-4-1; IC 35-48-4-6) and therefore impossible to determine from charge information if an individual was charged with meth or cocaine related offense. We believe that the information on meth versus cocaine offenses is decipherable through the Proslink system, but may be rather time consuming and requires further investigation. In some instances, stakeholders also admit that collection of meth-specific data is erratic and agencies' data system structures do not always allow input or extraction of meth information.

Most Agencies Express Interest in Meth Data Repository

The majority of stakeholders contacted convey a keen interest in addressing meth issues and in the repository, further demonstrating the need for comprehensive, accurate, timely, and readily available information. Specific examples of feedback on the repository include the following:

- The Indiana Association of Counties (IAC) uses county arrest numbers to help pass legislation at the county level. Access to this type of data via the meth repository would be beneficial.
- The Indiana Law Enforcement Association (ILEA) accesses data and relevant statistics from others, and would be interested in data from the repository about areas around the state that report significant meth use.
- The Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs is interested in meth-related data pertaining specifically to the Hispanic/Latino community.
- The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males is interested in numbers of arrests, prosecutions, convictions, and sentencing periods related to meth.
- The Indiana Retail Council would be interested in a section of the repository dedicated to meth-related statutes.
- The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana would like to see information about the number of children removed from homes under Drug Endangered Child Protocols.

Many agencies surveyed also report that they receive meth-related data/information from other agencies such as ISP, Excise Police, IDOC, and the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council. Upon further investigation, the project may find this information could be housed by the data repository and therefore readily available to agencies that previously had to initiate specific requests. A central clearinghouse would also reduce time and effort dedicated to fulfilling such requests for data.

Next Steps

This canvass of state agencies lays the groundwork for definitive identification and understanding of meth-specific data and information to be included in the repository. The project team will continue to follow up with those agencies not yet contacted, as well as those that report collecting data, to obtain more detailed information about these data and/or secure data files/sources for the repository. The project team will also follow up on recommendations regarding additional meth-related data and resources.

Appendix A

Agencies Reporting Meth-Specific Data Collection: Data Attributes

Agency	Description of data collected	Data source	Collection mechanism	Frequency of data collection	Time period covered	Spatial location covered	Unit of analysis	Data on Costs	Share data
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)	DEA collects data on drug-related cases and arrests (not convictions) by drug type. Agency also maintains information regarding pseudoephedrine and meth-related studies.	Follow up required							Yes
FSSA - Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA)	DHMA has collect data on from treatment providers on meth users receiving services through Hoosier Assurance Plan since 2001.	Follow up required							Yes
FSSA - Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP)	Meth-specific data can be extracted from the Medicaid database. OMPP collects injury/illness data, but meth is not always captured even if it is considered a contributing factor	Follow up required							Yes
Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana	Community Consultants collect meth-related data about meetings, programs, and statistics for each county	Monthly reports submitted to CJI	Monthly reports submitted to CJI	Monthly	August 2005 to present	County level	Information currently is mostly in narrative form with limited empirical data	None	Yes
Growers' Cooperative	Organization surveys farm retailers and Indiana agriculture regarding costs incurred related to meth; including anhydrous theft, vandalism, security expenses, business disruption, and environmental impact. Reported results indicate that farm retailers incurred over 5 million in costs related to meth over a 5 period period.	Survey of farm retailers	Survey of farm retailers	One time	2004	State	Individual farm retailers	Yes	Follow up required

Agency	Description of data collected	Data source	Collection mechanism	Frequency of data collection	Time period covered	Spatial location covered	Unit of analysis	Data on Costs	Share data
Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC)	<p>DOC collects the following types of data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offenders in need of meth-related treatment are flagged by system and status maintained for one month • Meth-related offenses • Information about meth units & programs • Pre/Post Tests (follow up to clarify) • ISU evaluation of meth unit (follow up) • Developing tracking system to collect outcome data for individuals in treatment facilities • Developing performance measures to determine treatment effectiveness 	DOC records	Collected by offender upon entry (Intake form?)	Records are updated on a daily basis	Unknown	Per facility	Individual information on offenders, as well as general empirical data	None	Yes
Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	DNR has recently updated tracking system to code for drug specific offenses including meth and precursor arrests. Prior to this, such offenses were coded under "miscellaneous" drug arrests. DNR receives month reports from district command which reflect a significant increase in meth-lated cases and events.	Monthly district summary	District commanders submit a monthly report	Most case reports submitted within two weeks of incident and summary reports are generated monthly		Follow up required	Information can be accessed by address, type of arrest, name, officer, county, and time of incident	None	Yes, except intelligence information
Indiana State Department of Health	General meth-related research—ingredients, production, information on drug endangered children, searches and seizures, clean-ups, and health effects	Follow up required							Yes

Agency	Description of data collected	Data source	Collection mechanism	Frequency of data collection	Time period covered	Spatial location covered	Unit of analysis	Data on Costs	Share data
Indiana State Police (ISP)	<p>Agency collects the following types of data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISP is the primary reporting agency for meth lab seizures (a few local agencies report numbers directly to EPIC). ISP collects data on meth-related arrests All ISP public information programs concerning meth Some data from retailer PSE logs Types and locations of lab seizures Types of information programs given and type of group Intelligence information 	ISP case reports ISP clandestine lab reports EPIC reports	Officers submit reports	Reporting varies—most are compiled monthly	1992 to present.	Reports are broken down by ISP post, but county information also is available	Follow up required	None	Yes, depending on legal and intelligence issues
State Department of Toxicology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples tested for meth and those that are positive Number and results of screen tests for broad class of amphetamines Number and results of confirmation tests that provide amounts of each amphetamine that have positive results Average concentrations found in deceased 	Toxicology database of sampled cases	Data on individuals processed through the lab	Updated daily as new cases arrive and results are received	2001 to present	State	Individual level ?? (follow up required)	None	Yes
U.S. Attorney Southern District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of defendants charged Number of indictments Disposition of cases General possession and trafficking information 	Follow up required							Yes, unless information court sealed

Appendix B
Agencies Reporting Meth-Related Programming

Agency	Description of current programs	Able to share information	Description of data and/or information agency plans to collect
Agribusiness Council of Indiana	Agency educates rural communities, provides programs for members, and distributes informational posters regarding meth.	Yes	Continuation of current activities
Chemist & Seed Commissioner	Agency gathers information regarding anhydrous ammonia tanks and is primarily concerned with fertilizer laws and safety issues surrounding tanks.	Yes	Agency depends on local police to gather meth data and has no plans as regulations and laws do not require collection.
Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR)	2003 IACIR Survey included a question for local elected officials regarding perceptions of types of drug abuse that exist in various age groups in their communities. Respondents could select "stimulants" from total of 9 categories of substances.	Yes	IACIR is also willing to include a question(s) about meth in a subsequent survey, for administration in early 2006.
Indiana Association of Counties (IAC)	IAC works with counties to pass ordinances limiting availability of meth-producing chemicals and ingredients.	IAC may be able to obtain information regarding which counties have passed ordinances and numbers to support successful implementation.	Continuation of current activities
Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)	IDOE sponsors forum for meth education to school personnel. Initiate development of materials to assist personnel in recognizing meth use to be distributed to school corporations' Drug-Free Schools coordinators		Currently searching for materials and resources for school personnel that can be adopted for use in Indiana.
Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)	IDEM is involved in establishing standards for meth lab cleanup and forming a roster of contractors certified for cleanup.	Follow up required	IDEM is evaluating existing tools and resources for developing a database for certified contractors. If IDEM begins to track meth labs at a later date, they will depend on other data providers such as ISP.
Indiana Judicial Center	Organization does not collect meth-specific data, but is concerned with program development and case management of meth-addicted individuals. Judges are charged with developing meth case management programs and decisions are developed on a case-by-case basis. It may be possible to track sentencing data from information agency maintains. IJC also educates judges on aspects of meth.	Unsure—depends on relevance to the project	Continuation of current activities

Agency	Description of current programs	Able to share information	Description of data and/or information agency plans to collect
Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)	ILEA provides meth-related training and education to law enforcement officers across the state. The training covers the identification of meth and its precursors, effects of meth use, and overview of clandestine labs.	N/A	N/A
Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC)	IPAC advocates for stricter meth laws and educates prosecuting attorneys on changes to the Indiana Code regarding meth. Involved in developing form of log for recording pseudoephedrine and ephedrine sales as required by SEA 444.	N/A	Follow up required
Indiana Retail Council	IRC does not collect data, but ensures that retailers understand legal requirements and remain compliant.	N/A	N/A
Indiana State Fire Marshall	Agency provides training and education about clandestine meth labs to first responders.	N/A	Continuation of current activities